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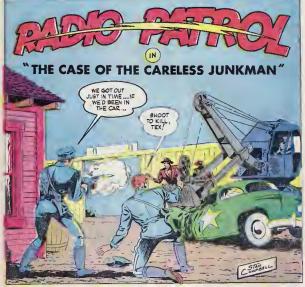






















































































"DEATH MARKS A BULLET"

Evelyn Burdick was anary as she sat at the breakfast table and faced her husband. She paured him a secand cup of coffee and buttered a slice of toast. Then she expressed her thaughts in na uncertain words.

"Your uncle went to the dactar yesterday far a physical check-up. He is in perfect health. In fact, he might even autlive us, Every time you ask him about being made a partner in the business, he shrugs it aff. You gave up a good job at the gas station back hame to come here."

Frank Burdick was used to his wife when she became anary. No use of reminding her that he had been fired from every jab he held during the last five years. And then Uncle Lea Burdick had asked them both to came to Lentenville.

"We gat a raaf over our heads and maney in our packets. What more can we ask?," he replied gently to his wife. "After all, we are his anly living heirs."

"That spart stare of his is a gold mine," snapped back Evelyn.

"Da yau realize he made mare than fivehundred dollars last week? I never knew there was sa much maney in fishing tackle, warms, guns and bullets. Naw if that stare were anly gurs."

"It will be ours when Uncle Lea dies," painted aut Frank ta his wife, "He's at least sixtyfive and can't live farever."

"We could sart af help him die," replied Evelyn grimly, as she realized she would have ta make things very clear ta her sart af dumb husband, "I have been thinking of various ways in which we could make it laak like an accident."

Slowly Frank replaced his half empty cup of caffee an the saucer. No need of asking whether ar not his wife was serious about killing Uncle Leo. She meant what she said. And he knew there would be no rest until she gat her way.

"You anly read about those perfect crimes



In staries," he half protested, "We cauldn't get away with it."

"You bet we cauld," she retarted. "What's the motter with you? Dan't you understand that every unsalved murder has to be a perfect crime? I have met Sheriff Sam Luke. He's sa ald and feeble he just tatters along. I'll show you haw easy it is to kill your Uncle Leo and make it look like an accident, At law tide, the end of the pier is forty feet above the racks. Suppase you just weakened ane of the pilings? Everyane knaws haw ald and rickety that bridge is. In fact, you yourself heard Sheriff Sam Luke advise your uncle to have the pier fixed. By friday of this week we should be maurning far the late Leo Burdick."

Thursday marning it was law tide. As was his habit. Uncle Lea walked to the end of the pier to check the bait baxes. He would count them to be certain none were missing. He was a bald-headed, taathless old man wha always had a wide arin an his face. He timped slawly ta the end of the pier. He moved same of the bait baxes, and then it happened! The last piling collopsed, and part of the pier went hurtling dawn, Uncle Lea found himself handing precariausly an a moving piece of timber,

"Help! Help!," he shouted vigarausly at the tap of his vaice. "I'm falling! Save mel"

The driver of a delivery truck heard the shauts for help, He stapped his car and walked half way down the pier. Suddenly he felt the baards underneoth him begin to give way. He then retreated backwards.

"Hald an," he shauted back, "I'll get the bays from the volunteer fire department. They have a life net. We'll ga belaw an the racks and catch yau."

Five minutes later a badly shaken up Uncle Lea gat out af the life net. His nephew Frank

had been to the railmod station to nick up a parkage and returned just in time to see the crowd

"I warned your uncle to have that pier five ed. Must be at least thirty years old. Won't listen to me. Almost broke his neck. The old hav sure has a lot of strength in those fingers of his to hold on so long."

Uncle Lea was resting comfortably in hed Downstairs, seated at the table, were Frank and

his wife.

"It almost worked " admitted Evelyn "Not a person suspected we had planned it. It was clever the way you forced the piling to the side. I have been thinking of an entirely different way to kill him "

"Must we?," protested Frank weakly, "Can't we let well enough glone. I'm a bit scared."

"Don't be chicken-hearted." scolded his wife. "We'll take a drive tonight, and I'll have all details worked out by that time."

There was a blood moon in the sky as though it were an evil omen. Frank had norked his car on the side of Uplift Mountain. He lit a cigarette and his hand trembled. He knew this time he would have to kill his Uncle lea and not fail

"Got it all figured out," began Evelyn. "Nothing can go wrong this time. Your uncle burns all empty haves down on the rocks. He dumps the stuff in that big empty oil drum and lights a fire. Slip about a dozen .38 cartridges in a box when you carry the stuff out to the fire. Pick a dark cloudy night, when there'll be no moon to reflect any light. Then shoot him with a .38 revolver. Use exactly four bullets. You will also have four empty shells in that can. Shaot off the gun in the woods so you'll have those four empty shells. You con't find a flaw with that idea."

Frank went over it in his mind. He couldn't find a weak spot in it. He sort of shook his

head as though agreeing with his wife. "There will be an autopsy. All it can show is

the four slugs. Then the business will be mine." 'Ours." corrected his wife.

All the rowboats had been taken over to the cove, where they were kept during the night, Frank had put in a hard day, Uncle Leo

was very well pleased.

"Next year I am going to buy a launch. We'll take people out to the other side of Mander's Island. Good fishing there. Business is fine. You have been a good help to me, Frank. Some day you will be a partner. Mighty soon this will be your business."

At nine-thirty there was a slight fog and no moon in the sky. Uncle Leo began to take out the empty paper boxes to burn them. Frank took four empty cartridge boxes he had been secretly soving. He placed a dozen live cartridges in the bottom box. In the top box he

placed the empty shells. He walked down to the rocks and threw them into the can It was something like a ritual when Uncle Lea would start the fire. Frank walked about three yards in back of his uncle and watched the flames lick up towards the sky Suddenly there was an explosion. At the same time Frank came up with the revolver and aimed it directly at his uncle who turned around

"Don't . . .," was the one ond only word to escape Uncle Leo's lips. It was also his last word on this earth Front fired four shots in quick succession. Then he quickly ran to the side of the rocks and moved one aside He dropped the gun down into a hole he had prepared

"Mighty terrible thing happened to your Uncle Leo." said Sheriff Sam Luke "Knew him for quarter of a century. Fine man with a big heart. He liked you a lot He must have been gettin' careless, not checkin' on boxes.

"Can I ao home to my wife, now?" asked Frank, "You have my statement about how the

accident happened

"Of course," replied the sheriff in a Iriendly manner, "If there's anything more I want, I'll see you in the morning."

Fronk was nervous at the breakfast table His hand shook so that the coffee spilled from his cun "Get vourself together" advised his wife

"It was a perfect jab, and they will-never find

Just then the door bell rang. Evelyn looked at her burhand "Pull yourself together," she said, "I'll see

who it is at this early time of the morning." Sheriff Sam Luke, Dr. Howard Jones the

coroner, and a stranger entered, and the low officer began speaking at once.

"Mighty slick trick you thought you figured out to kill your Uncle Leo. Dr. Jones took out the bullets from your uncle's body. Mon with me is Burt Lanaly, a ballistic expert from the city. You must have shot your uncle with a .38 revolver which you then hid. Under the microscope we saw the rifling marks from the gun barrel, If your Uncle Leo had been killed by exploding bullets they would have no rifling marks on them. That's where you slipped up. Bet you thought you had figured out the perfect crime,

They gave them both the chair; for, the verdict was murder in the first degree, and the jury brought in no recommendation for mercy "Funny thing about how greedy people can

be," remarked the sheriff to Dr. Jones after the trial. "Leo had gone to his attorney and drawn up the partnership papers as a surprise. Had Frank woited, he would have been a portner the next day."

THERE WAS ALMOST \$25,000 IN CASH LOCKED AWAY IN THE SAFE ... AND IT TAS MONEY ARMUD FACTOR WANTED DESPERATELY! AS CASHIER OF THE FIRM WE INTEMPED TO ROB, HE WAS IN A SPLENDIP POSITION TO BET AWAY WITH THE CONTROL EXCEPT THAT HELEST HIMSELFWITH...



















TRY TO LOUSE UP A PERFECT SCHEME, WILL, YOU? IF YOU HADN'T POKEO YOUR NOSE HOLO THE SESSION OF THE HOLO THE SESSION OF THE HOLO THE SESSION OF THE BUT NOW, YOU'RE SONN'A DIE BY YOUR OWN GUN.'A

POLICE SIREN ... COMING CLOSER!
THE OLD DEVI MUST TE TIENEO
SPOTTED BY ME HERE IN THE OFFICE!
THE FRONT DOOP'LL SE CUT OFFI

NOT EVEN TIME BROUGH FOR ME TO SET OUT THIS BACK WINDOW ! HAVENIT A CHANCE TO ESCAPE ... BUT AND THE WATCHMAN ... ARE COULD NAME HE WATCHMAN ... ARE COULD NAME BURROUND THE PLACE ... CPS















































































USON PISCOVERY OF THIS MY MEN LOOKED THE TANKS OF SEE CASE STULLY/ UNDER THE CAP OF OF SEE CASE STULLY/ UNDER THE CAP OF OF SEE SET WING TANK THEY FOUND THIS, IT AS ABT OF FINGER-NAIL POLISH! DO YOU THINK THAT, AFTER IT IS ANALYZED, IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE THE KIND YOU WEAR, MRS. BLAIR?







NO BUTS "ABOUT IT! YOU'RE A SMART COP AND ALL THAT, BUT I'LL BREAK YOU OF SHOVING PROPLE AROUND IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DD! YOU'RE SUSPENDED FOR NINETY DAYS ... LEAVE YOUR GUN AND SHIELP WITH THE DESK SERGEANT ON YOUR WAY.



















SEEINS THE GUNMAN COVERING O'HARA FROM OUT-SIDE, THE PATROLMAN ENTERS, GUN IN HAND, BUT IN THE DIM LIGHT INSIDE THE BAR, PAILS TO NOTICE THE SECOND THUG POR A MOMENT...

































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